

Possibility of Another Water Rate Slash Here Believed Good

Next week when the city council receives City Auditor C. J. Rambo's report on municipal accounting, one of the items councilmen will look for with interest is the one devoted to the financial status of Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1. They won't be looking for any surprising increase in water expense because Manager William H. Stanger's monthly reports have shown he is keeping his costs to a minimum.

What they will be looking for is a basis for another reduction in water rates for the district. And, judging from an interview The Herald had with Manager Stanger this week, an interview that bristled with figures, city councilmen may find ample justification for slashing the water bills of consumers within the district.

While he indicated in no uncertain manner that he believed a reduction in water tariffs could be accomplished without any hardship to the Municipal Water District, Manager Stanger pointed out that the council has the sole right to order rate changes and that any public announcement would come from that body.

117 Gallons Per Capita Stanger revealed that the renovation of the electrical switchboard panels at the pumping station has been completed to conform to state requirements and that the entire \$416,843.82 system is now operating at top efficiency. Revenue last year—water sales, bond interest and miscellaneous income—amounted to \$54,826.55 as compared with 1936's \$49,106.07.

Last year more than 46 million cubic feet of water was pumped to supply 1,400 consumers—or nearly a million gallons a day. The per capita daily consumption of water here is 117 gallons, Stanger revealed. And the average monthly bill of a domestic patron is \$1.65, which is considerably below the average in the city of Los Angeles.

In 1936 there were 42 million cubic feet of water pumped by the district to serve 1,280 consumers. Pumping draining water from the city's two wells are operating around 95 percent efficiency, which is an excellent performance judging from reports by pump experts who assert 75 percent is rated "good."

Keep Water Wholesome The 16,232 consumers in 1937 were divided into 15,759 domestic (15,328 in 1936), 517 industrial (512 in '36) and 246 irrigation (265 in the preceding year).

Last year the power bill paid by the Municipal Water District amounted to \$5,936 and to treat the water and maintain its superior rating in the frequent laboratory tests, 6,580 pounds of chlorine and 2,231 pounds of ammonia were used.

W. P. A. Project To Map City's Underworld

Presidential approval of a W.P.A. project in Torrance was reported from Washington this week. The project, in the amount of \$2,868, provides:

Employment for needy professional, educational and clerical persons to survey and prepare maps showing local underground sewers, pipes, tunnels, conduits, gas and water mains, service lines, manholes, catch basins, oil pipe lines, and other such structures, showing horizontal and vertical location with size, shape, use, material and other physical characteristics. Work will include necessary engineering, field and office surveys to collect information and data necessary for maps.

This project has been sent to the comptroller general for final clearance, whereupon it becomes eligible for operation at the discretion of the W.P.A. administrator for Southern California. Information regarding the operations of this project may be obtained from the W.P.A. administrator, 1206 Santee street, Los Angeles.

P. E. janitor finds 'possum hunting is good in Torrance

ESPECIALLY INSIDE THE P. E. shop grounds where he bagged his second one Monday night. Charlie Brown, who once traveled over most of these United States as a sleeping car porter, never lost his taste for succulent 'possum nor his hunting instincts.

For many years he has been one of the janitors employed at the local railway shops and has "mooched around" the shop grounds until he knows the topography of dilapidated cars and equipment stored in the northern part of the P. E. plant "lak the back of mah han."

Last week he noticed the tiny paw tracks of something he knew at once was a 'possum. He set a trap and was rewarded with a fat 15-pounder. Sunday he observed more tracks and was rewarded with a smaller one. Janitor Brown again returned to his home in Los Angeles and with the main dish for a real Southern treat—bagged 'possum with the yams—um-m-m!

New Junior Hi Student Prexy



HELEN THOMPSON Who became the first girl ever to be elected president of the Junior high school student body this week after a vigorous campaign that gave her a 14-vote lead over her nearest opponent, a boy. Helen is the winsome 14-year-old daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. Ed Thompson of 917 Amapola avenue. She will start her term of office with the beginning of the second semester, Feb. 7. Howard Foster was named vice-president of the Junior high pupils.

Members of the Torrance high school student body named William Franklin as president to succeed "Midge" Higgins, who will graduate next Thursday night. Lee Kirkpatrick was chosen vice-president, Georgina Tiffany, secretary, and Louis Murray, commissioner of group control.

Second Half of Tax Bill Due

Payments on the second half of the county's \$116,587,895 tax levy for 1937-38 were being received this week by County Treasurer Howard L. Byram. Payment of this installment must be made before midnight of April 20 in order to escape a delinquent penalty of three percent, in addition to a fee of 50 cents for each item of real estate advertised for tax sale.

Tax delinquent for the entire fiscal year levy will be subject to a penalty of 11 percent, plus the advertising fee. Collections during the first half of the year totaled \$66,339,087, or approximately 57 percent of the total for the year, instead of one-half. The total levy this year is \$11,856,495 more than for the preceding year.

One-Man Parade for Job in L. A. Halted by Cops

Ingenious efforts of K. O. Mumford of 1106 El Prado to get a much-needed job almost landed him in a Los Angeles city jail cell this week.

Other efforts failing, Mumford, who is a University of Minnesota graduate with eight years experience as a chemist, resorted to a one-man parade along Broadway, Los Angeles, with a sandwich board pleading his cause.

At Third street, police demanded his permit and when they found he had none, took him to headquarters. When Mumford told the officers he had a wife and nine-year-old daughter to support, he was released with a warning to stick to more conventional methods of job-hunting.

Mumps Show Gain Over 5-Year Average

Chickenpox, whooping cough and mumps continued to increase during the past week, according to the report of County Health Officer J. L. Pomeroy, but mumps was the only one to show an increase over the average for the past five years at this season.

Suicide Attempt Fails Retired Sea Captain

Despite elaborate preparations to end his life by slashing his throat and left wrist with a straight-edge razor which he stropped especially for the act early Tuesday morning, Dave Adamson, a 60-year-old retired sea captain, is recovering today at Torrance Memorial hospital. Adamson, who had been drinking heavily for a week, attempted to carry out his threats to "end it all" in a sheet-iron shack a block west of his house at 2930 Sepulveda boulevard.

He went there equipped with his razor and a small mirror. Sergeant Ernest Ashton, who investigated, reported that it was evident that Adamson spent several minutes stropping his weapon and used the mirror to guide his hand as it drew the keen blade across his throat from two sides.

But he "just nicked" his jugular vein. Later he slashed at his wrist. Ashton then learned that the would-be suicide walked to a neighbor's house and was seen by his daughter, Mrs. Gladys Jones, who lived in a home adjoining his.

After standing in the rear yard for awhile he crossed the street where his daughter discovered that he was seriously wounded and with the assistance of a neighbor, Mrs. Wood, rushed him to the hospital. Surgeons bound up his cuts and pronounced him out of danger. Adamson is divorced from his wife and owns considerable property in South Torrance, it is understood.

Council Rushes Routine Work

Because of the two scheduled public hearings reported elsewhere on this page, the city council rushed thru routine civic business Tuesday night. City Clerk reported receipt of a check for \$1.79 from the Southern California Gas company for pipeline franchise on 631 feet laid during the last six months of 1937. Payment was based on the fee of \$15 per mile.

On recommendation of Fire A. D. Stevenson, J. J. Benner and Gordon Northington were promoted from firemen to engineers, effective as of Jan. 1. Benner has been a member of the department since Jan. 31, 1929 and Northington from June 1, 1937. Both passed civil service tests.

Appropriation of \$250 for the purchase of trees to be planted on Cedar avenue, on motion by Councilman James Hitchcock, was approved.

Mayor William H. Tolson suggested three appropriations which were ratified: \$75 for auditorium chairs; \$60 for shelving in City Judge Robert Lessing's chambers to accommodate new law books, and \$165 for a "ditto" (duplicating) machine for the city clerk's office.

School Requires Proper Parking Driving of Cars

Principal Thomas Elson and his high school faculty are endeavoring to correct the danger of automobile traffic as it applies to students. All cars are required to be registered and parked in certain specified places adjoining the campus. Students who go home to lunch are permitted to park at the curb; all others in a parking lot provided on the school grounds.

Elson said the school will appreciate the cooperation of parents in getting students to comply with the regulations. He said a great deal of dangerous driving has been reported in recent weeks and this is being checked up on. An attempt is also being made to eliminate loss of car equipment thru pilfering when cars are not parked under supervision.

Building Permits Advance \$4,000

Building permits issued here during the past week totaled \$4,000, making the amount of new construction started during the past 27 days of 1938, \$1,796,950.

W. Forgie is building a five-room frame stucco house and garage at 2355 Maricopa for \$3,000; K. Yonomura is erecting a moved-in 12 by 24 foot house on P. E. shop property for \$200; J. W. Wolfe is adding a glassed-in porch and a double garage to his property at 2130 238th, costing \$200; and two Japanese are erecting moved-in houses at 2034 and 2038 Garden boulevard, amounting to \$600.

Final Design of T. H. S. Auditorium



Awaiting final approval in Sacramento of the state school architect are the plans for the \$100,700 Torrance high school auditorium, reproduced above from the architect's drawing. This is the way the building, which will face a sunken garden where the present excavation for the old assembly hall now yawns, will look when completed early this year.

President's Ball to Set Record

All preparations are complete to entertain the largest crowd ever attend a President's Birthday Ball in Torrance were complete today for the dance to be held Saturday night, Jan. 29, at Hollywood Riviera clubhouse in conjunction with nation-wide festivities to raise funds for the new National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

Jim Rahl, general chairman of the local ball for the sponsoring 20-30 club, said today that the advance sale of tickets (at \$1 per couple) was "much better than we expected."

The tickets may be obtained from 20-30 members and at the Union Oil station, Carson and Arlington; Buckeye cafe, Harvel's Service station, Dolley, R-B Cut Rate and Torrance Pharmacy drug stores, Roberts Liquor store, Torrance Laundry, Ritz cafe, and the Famous Chili Parlor. Tickets will also be available at the clubhouse.

Music for the gala dance, which starts at 9 o'clock, will be furnished by Ray Dietrick's 11-piece swing band. All of the proceeds above the small amount of expense incurred by the 20-30 club in staging the program will be sent to the National Foundation formed by President Roosevelt to combat the dread disease. To this fund will be added the "March of Dimes" collected by local Boy Scouts from the sale of "Fight Infantile Paralysis" buttons.

Accuse Pair of Ore Theft Here

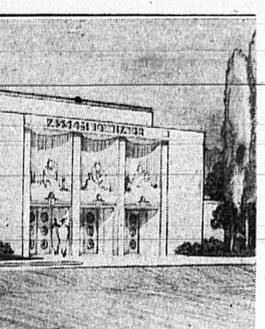
Two Columbia Steel workers, Thomas D. Holmes, 43, crane operator, and Harry R. Coffin, 39, switchman, were arrested yesterday on grand theft of manganese ore charges. Last night, in the presence of Sergeant Ernest Ashton, who made the arrests, H. T. Lintott, assistant general superintendent, and C. S. Warner, plant engineer, they wrote out confessions and today were scheduled to be arraigned before City Judge Robert Lessing.

Because of the ore theft, which is alleged to have occurred Monday, amounting to less than \$100, Holmes said he sold the truck load for \$36) the charge will be reduced to a misdemeanor and if found guilty by the magistrate county jail instead of prison terms may be meted out. Coffin confessed that he helped Holmes transfer "some ore" from one truck to another "to take out of the plant for sale."

Riviera Home Ransacked

Burglars ransacked the home of Roy Stewart, Hollywood Riviera clubhouse manager, at Paseo Las Delicias early Monday night and made off with some jewelry, a small radio set, electric clock, kodak, pencil set and a dresser set in a leather case, according to police reports. Entry to the home, which was unoccupied at the time, was gained by breaking the glass in the rear door, reaching thru and unlocking the latch.

PROTESTS KILL N. TORRANCE WATER PLAN



Vista Highlands People Win Demand to Keep Property Unclassified in Zoning

Two public hearings held by the city council Tuesday night attracted the largest crowd of spectators to attend a council session in many months and resulted in the virtual abandonment of the long-proposed North Torrance municipal water district to provide water and facilities for residents on Arlington avenue between 166th and 182nd streets.

Two Deepened Oil Wells Said Near Production

Two deepening jobs in the busy South Torrance oil field were reported down to 4,800 feet today and oil scouts in the area were watching the work with increasing interest as the project neared their limit before the wells are expected to start producing. One of these was Albertson Oil's hole on 233rd east of Narbonne and the other was Kelly's Emerald Oil deep sands at 233rd on the northeast corner of 23rd and Narbonne.

C. C. M. O.'s No. 23 which experienced some water trouble and required re-cementing last week, was reported producing last night. "No statement could be obtained on the amount. This is the second deeper sands venture in the field, the first being Everett Grubb's No. 1 at Pennsylvania and Sepulveda. The C. C. M. O. well is said to be producing an excellent grade of high gravity.

Supply Depot Opens Jack Doyle had a crew at work preparing a grass-roots project at 2927 233rd yesterday. He also started two other new holes during the past week in that vicinity, it was reported. Another industry was added to the city's list this week when Republic Supply company completed work on a new warehouse at Arlington and Sepulveda and announced it is open for business. This is Republic's first supply depot in Torrance.

Henry Schedule Looms McGaffrey took out a building permit for a wooden derrick at 23040 Narbonne to cost \$5,000. Considerable leasing activity is being noticed in north Lomita, adjoining the revived Torrance field, as operators were seeking to test deep sand possibilities beyond the limit of the local field in 1923-24.

Ball to Benefit Hospital Feb. 19

Tickets for the annual Torrance Memorial hospital benefit ball, the outstanding community social event of the season, went on sale this week with all members of the Women's club again acting as sales agents. The ball will be held in the Civic Auditorium, Saturday night, Feb. 19. One of the best orchestras in the Southland, Fred Graff's Temple swing symphony of Inglewood, will provide the music.

Dr. E. G. Butts of Redondo is general chairman of the ball committee and tickets are priced at \$1 per person. Dr. J. S. Lancaster, president-elect of the hospital staff, urges all residents of Torrance and surrounding communities to support this benefit entertainment.

He points out that in addition to extra facilities added to the hospital in recent months, such as complete equipment for typing pneumonia cases, the institution's endowment has been severely reduced because of increased taxation. The hospital, Dr. Lancaster said, is in a great need for funds to carry on and the benefit ball is the one means whereby it can maintain its present high standards of service to all.

Library Garden Gates Installed

Three unusually attractive ornamental iron gates, a double and a single entry, were installed to completely enclose the Public Library's rear garden this week. The gates were designed and made at the National Supply company plant here and show craftsmanship of which the makers may well be proud.

299 Entries in the scrambled words contest gave the editor

A HARD AFTERNOON'S work yesterday, trying to decide the winners. Nearly everyone reported the correct identity of the merchants, professional men and city officials advertising in last week's full-page endorsement of the President's Birthday Ball. The Contest Editor had to grade the entries first for correct spelling and punctuation and then judge them for "neatness, originality and promptness."

Night had fallen before he finally emerged from his cubicle with the winners: Naomi Riley, 2375 Maricopa, was found to have the best entry—a clever cartoning effort, and she will be awarded the major prize of \$5 if she calls at The Herald office tomorrow (Friday). Names of the winners of the 12 tickets to the President's Ball at Hollywood Riviera will be found in the full-page advertisement inside which also gives the correct scramble to the scrambled words of last week.

The Herald thanks every entrant in the contest, regrets that all could not win, invites them to try their luck next time.

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